

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-02 /005 R

66604

DRAFTED BY IO/HDC:LNCAVANAUGH

APPROVED BY IO/HDC:EDWARD P NOZIGLIA

EUR/TUR:MBHIRSHORN

----- 030998

R 151756Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION GENEVA 2223

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100946

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ATHENS FROM ANKARA
14 MAY 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PBOR TU GR

SUBJ: POPPIES/GREEK-TURKEY DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN

REF: (A) ANKARA 3507 (B) STATE 097455

1. AT LUNCHEON ON MAY 11 I HAD A PRIVATE AND DISCOURAGING CON-
VERSATION WITH MFA SEC GEN EREZ ON TWO SUBJECTS.

2. HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD REPORTED USG POSITION RE UNWILLING-
NESS TO PROCEED WITH \$5 MILLION POPPY LOAN PURSUANT TO OUR
CONVERSATION (REFTEL A) AND THAT PRIME MINISTER'S AND FOREIGN
MINISTER'S REACTION WAS, "THIS JUST SHOWS THE KIND OF PRESSURE
THEY ARE PUTTING UPON US." THIS LED TO A RENEWED PRESENTATION
BY ME OF CONGRESSIONAL AND GAO REASONS WHY IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR
US TO MAKE PAYMENTS IN SUPPORT OF AN AGREED UPON TRANSITION
FROM GROWING TO NOT GROWING WHEN TURKS HAD PUT US ON CLEAR
NOTICE THAT THEY LIKELY TO BREAK THEIR END OF BAN AGREEMENT.
THIS IN TURN TRIGGERED A SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL RESPONSE FROM EREZ ENDING
UP WITH STATEMENT THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD SEE, GOT MIGHT AS WELL
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GO AHEAD WITH BAN RECISION "AND GET IT OVER WITH." I SAID IF

RESPONSIBLE FONOFF OFFICIALS TALK THAT WAY, I WAS CONCERNED INDEED FOR FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS, AND I TOOK OCCASION TO UNDERSCORE AGAIN THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY ENSUE TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS IF GOT RESCINDS BAN. I EMPHASIZED THAT I DID NOT THINK ANYONE IN GOT VIEWING THIS PROSPECT WITH THE TRUE CONCERN IT MERITED.

2. TURNING TO AEGEAN, EREZ SAID THAT SPEECH BY GREEK PRIME MINISTER ANDROUTSOPOULOS EARLIER IN WEEK, WHILE NO NAMES WERE MENTIONED, WAS OBVIOUSLY A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO TURKEY. IT HAD CAUSED MUCH CONCERN AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOT, AND DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE REBUTTED. I ASKED WHY IT NEEDED TO BE REBUTTED. I POINTED OUT THAT REBUTTALS OF THIS KIND ONLY ESCALATED SITUATION. I SAID TURK TOUGHNESS AND POLICY TOWARD AEGEAN WERE BOTH WELL KNOWN AND DID NOT NEED PROPOSED REBUTTAL TO KEEP THEM UNDERSTOOD. SUCH REBUTTAL COULD THEREFORE SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ADD MORE HEAT TO AN ALREADY OVERHEATED SITUATION. EREZ TERMINATED CONVERSATION BY SAYING I COULD BE SURE REBUTTAL WOULD BE MADE. HOWEVER, ON MONDAY, MAY 13, I HAD LUNCH WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR WHO HAD JUST LEFT MEETING WITH FONMIN. HE TOLD ME THAT LATTER MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANDROUTSOPOULOS' SPEECH. MACOMBER UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CONTINENTAL SHELF, AEGEAN SEA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AGRICULTURAL LAW, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE100946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LNCAVANAUGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740120-0636
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740545/aaaabnwa.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) ANKARA 3507 (B) STATE 097455
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPPIES/GREEK-TURKEY DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN
TAGS: SNAR, PBOR, TU, GR, US
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005